

Japanese Hops

Humulus japonicus



Pictures By: C. Evans @ www.invasive.org

Invasive Plants are a Threat to:

- Forests and wetlands
- Native plants
- Perennial gardens
- Wildlife
- Lakes and rivers
- Human health
- Farmland

Description:

Japanese hops is a dioecious, fast-growing, herbaceous annual vine in the *Cannabinaceae* family. Its leaves are simple, opposite, heart-shaped and palmately divided, usually into 5 lobes. Flowers are greenish and bloom mid to late summer. Green hops produced by female plants contain oval, yellowish brown seeds. The seeds are believed to remain viable in the soil for three years and are dispersed by wind and water along rivers and streams. The stems are 8-35 feet in length and are covered with rough hairs that are very irritating to bare skin.

Distribution:

Japanese hops can grow in sandy, loamy, clay, acid, neutral and basic soils. While it requires moist soil, it can grow in semi-shade to no shade environments. It threatens open woodlands, fields, prairies and riparian corridors. It is widespread throughout the eastern United States and ranges from Maine south to Georgia and west to Kansas and Nebraska. In Indiana, most populations are in southern Indiana riparian areas, though a few northern sites have been reported.

Problem:

This species is considered to be invasive and has a high reproductive rate, rapid growth rate, long range dispersal, and broad photosynthetic range. Japanese hops can form dense, almost solid, stands that outcompete native vegetation and has the potential to displace native riverbank and flood plain vegetation. Vines begin growth in May. Growth is rapid and the vines quickly climb over adjacent vegetation. By late summer, vines can be up to 35 feet in length, which can blanket nearby vegetation.

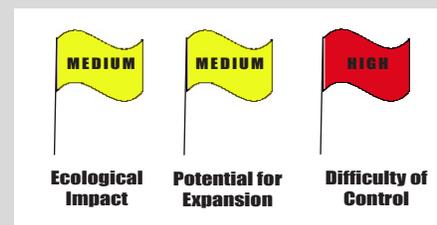
Origin:

Japanese hops is native to Japan and eastern China. It was introduced to the United States as an ornamental garden plant. Unlike its close relative, *Humulus lupulus* (common hops), Japanese hops has little value in the brewing industry.



Picture By: J. Randall @ <http://tnc-weeds.ucdavis.edu>.

IPSAWG Ranking:



IPSAWG Recommendation:

- Do not buy, sell or plant Japanese hops in Indiana.
- Help by eradicating Japanese hops on your property.

This ranking illustrates the results of an assessment conducted by the **Invasive Plant Species Assessment Working Group** (IPSAWG), which is made up of many organizations and agencies concerned about invasive plant species. IPSAWG's goal is to assess which plant species may threaten natural areas in Indiana and develop recommendations to reduce their use in the state.

For more information about IPSAWG and the assessment tool used to rank invasive species, visit their website:

www.invasivespecies.IN.gov

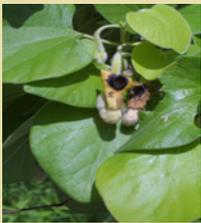
ALTERNATIVES to Japanese hops:



Virgin's Bower
(*Clematis virginiana*)



Trumpet Honeysuckle
(*Lonicera sempervirens*)



Woolly Dutchman's Pipe
(*Aristolochia tomentosa*)

Pictures By (Top to Bottom): D. Liebman, J. Lepore and S. Baskauf.

Other Alternatives:

Virginia Creeper
(*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*)

Crossvine
(*Bignonia capreolata*)

Not Recommended:

American Bittersweet
(*Celastrus scandens*)
While American Bittersweet is native and non-invasive, nurseries often mislabel Oriental Bittersweet as American Bittersweet. It is very difficult to find true American Bittersweet for sale.

Control Methods:

Plants can be hand pulled and removed from the area before seeds ripen. When pulling the plants, attempt to remove as much of the rootstock as possible. Long sleeves, pants, and gloves are essential to avoid skin irritation. It is likely that resprouts could occur from both the rootstock and the vines. An herbicide alternative is glyphosate (i.e. Roundup or Rodeo). Foliar application of glyphosate (mixed according to label directions) prior to

flowering should damage the plant enough so it will not be able to flower and set seed. The seed bank is typically exhausted

within approximately three years.
Always read and follow pesticide label directions.



Picture By: J. Randall @ <http://tncweeds.ucdavis.edu>.

Eight Easy Ways to Combat Invasive Plants

You can **help stop** the spread of **invasive plants** by following these **8 easy guidelines**:

1. Ask for only non-invasive species when you acquire plants. Request that nurseries and garden centers sell only non-invasive plants.
2. Seek information on invasive plants. Sources include botanical gardens, horticulturists, conservationists, and government agencies.
3. Scout your property for invasive species, and remove invasives before they become a problem. If plants can't be removed, at least prevent them from going to seed.
4. Clean your boots before and after visiting a natural area to prevent the spread of invasive plant seeds.
5. Don't release aquarium plants into the wild.
6. Volunteer at local parks and natural areas to assist ongoing efforts to diminish the threat of invasive plants.
7. Help educate your community through personal contacts and in such settings as garden clubs and civic groups.
8. Support public policies and programs to control invasive plants.

For More Information:

On this assessment and IPSAWG:

IPSAWG
www.invasivespecies.IN.gov

On identification and control techniques:

The Nature Conservancy's Wildland Weeds
www.tncweeds.ucdavis.edu

On native plant alternatives and sources:

Indiana Native Plant and Wildflower Society
www.inpaws.org

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